(c) whether it is also a fact that the Passenger Reservation System (PRS) set up by Railways on the stations of remote areas remains often out of order;

(d) if not, the status of PRS functioning in the country; and

(e) if so, what is Government's scheme in this regard to facilitate the rural passengers of remote areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 31st July, 2007 between Ministry of Railways and Department of Posts, Government of India for sale of reserved Railway tickets through Post Office. Department of Posts will realize the following service charges from the passengers in lieu of issue of tickets:-

Sl. No.	Category	Service charge per ticket (Rs.)
1.	II class sleeper and II class sitting (2S)	15*
2.	III AC and AC Chair Car	20*
3.	II AC, IAC and First class	30*
4.	Cancellation Charges (for all classes)	10*

*Note: charges are inclusive of service tax.

(c) to (e) There have been some cases of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) failures in remote areas due to erratic power supply and interruptions in communication link. These failures are immediately brought to the notice of concerned State Government and BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) authorities for rectification. Apart from UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) at all PRS centres, power supply from overhead lines has been ordered to be provided at stations on electrified territory. In addition, whenever DG (Diesel Generator) sets are provided at the stations, the same will also supply to PRS centres. To provide uninterrupted functioning of PRS, alternate communication links are provided where feasible.

Gauge conversion

735. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in respect of the work of broad-gauge conversion in different States of the country, during the last five years, year-wise, zone-wise and section-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals/requests of the State Government of Gujarat received by Government with regard to the broad-gauge conversion; and

(c) the latest status thereof alongwith the period of pendency in respect of each such proposal/request especially in the case of Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) State-wise, year-wise and Railway-wise breakup of gauge conversion (in Kms) completed since 2002-03 is as under:

State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
Andhra Pradesh	166	30	163	14	0	373
N.E. & Assam	0	0	61	0	0	61
Bihar	0	0	0	85	54	139
Delhi	0	0	0	25	0	25
Gujarat	367	152	92	248	58	917
Haryana	0	0	0	58	0	58
Jharkhand	0	0	67	0	0	67
Karnataka	25	57	45	44	52	223
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	28	0	135	163
Maharashtra	42	0	20	0	197	259
Orissa	0	0	52	0	0	52
Rajasthan	150	241	131	0	185	707
Tamil Nadu	80	176	48	86	256	646
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	30	137	107	274
West Bengal	0	198	42	47	38	325
TOTAL:	830	854	779	744	1082	4289
Railways						
CR	42	0	0	0	80	122
ECR	0	0	52	51	54	157
NR	0	0	0	83	0	83
NWR	150	241	161	0	185	737
NE	0	0	0	165	107	272
NF	0	198	61	53	23	335
SR	80	176	48	86	256	646
SC	166	30	163	14	117	490
SE	0	0	109	0	15	124
SECR	0	0	48	0	0	48
SWR	25	57	45	44	52	223
WR	367	152	92	248	193	1052
TOTAL:	830	854	779	744	1082	4289

The section-wise details of gauge conversion completed since 2002-03 is as under:-

2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
Section	Kms	Section	Kms	Section	Kms	Section	Kms	Section	Kms
Latur-Latur Road	42	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-Samuktala	198	Manoharabad-Nizamabad	118	Secunderabad-Bolarum	14	Latur-Osmanabad	80
Luni-Samdari-Jasai (part)	150	Bandikui-Bharatpur	98	Adilabad- Kinwat	45	Khagaria-Mansi	9	Samastipur-Khagaria(part)	54
Vadalur-Vriddhachalam	27	Samdari-Jasai-Munabao	143	Samuktala-New Bongaigaon	61	Barsoi-Radhikapur	53	Farrukhabad-Kasganj	107
Mangalore-Puttur (part)	25	Mangalore-Kabakputtur-Subramanya Road	57	Sihor-Palitana	27	Delhi-Rewari (RVNL)	83	New Alipurdual-New Coochbehar	23
Virudhunagar-Rajapalayam	53	Villupuram-Pondicherry	37	Viramgam-Mehsana	65	Palanpur-Samkhiali (RVNL)	248	Ajmer-Chittaurgarh	185
Dharmabad-Nizamabad &	62	Rajapalaiyam-Tenkasi	70	Ranchi-Lohardaga	67	Sakleshpur-Subramaniya Road	44	Kinwat-Mudkhed	117
Katpadi- Tirupati-Pakala	104	Vadalur-Cuddalore	30	Bijapur-Basavanabagewadi	45	Kumbakonam-Mayiladuthurai (RVNL)	32	Sonamukhi-Sehrabazar	15
Rajkot-Jetalsar-Junagarh	102	Thanjavur-Kumbakonam	39	Gondia-Balaghat	48	Kanpur- Farrukhabad	137	Trichy-Pudukottai-Karaikudi	89
Surendernagar-Pipavav	265	Junagarh- Veraval (71 kms) & Veraval Somnath NL (5 km)	82	Rupsa- Baripada	52	Mansi-Saharsa	42	Manamadurai-Mandapam-Rameswaram	111
		Dhola-Bhavnagar and Rajula-Mahua	70	Udaipur-Chittaurgarh	108	Thawe-Siwan	28	Salem-Attur	56
		Bolarum-Manorahbad	30	Madurai-Manamadurai	48	Thanjavur-Thiruvanur	54	Basavana Bagewadi-Bagalkot	52
				Bharatpur-Agra Fort	53			Neemach-Ratlam	135
				Bankura-Sonamukhi	42			Veraval-Somnath new line	5
								Samakhiali-Gandhidham	58
TOTAL:	830		854		779		744		1082

(b) and (c) As per available records, the detail of proposals for gauge conversion received from State Government of Gujarat in the last few years and status is as under:

Sl. No.	Proposals	Action taken
1	Ahmedabad-Botad	Survey completed. Necessary action has
2	Dhasa-Jetalsar	been initiated to obtain requisite clearances.
3	Ahmedabad-Udaipur	
4	Dhasa-Veraval	No survey has been taken up.

Rise in passenger flow

736. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is maximum rise in the passenger flow between Northern and Eastern and North-Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the details of increase in the last six years, year-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal for tripling the railway track in these Railways; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Separate data on inter Railway flow of number of passengers is not maintained.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The tripling of lines has been taken up on Aligarh - Ghaziabad section to meet with demand of traffic. The dedicated freight corridor on Eastern Corridor will provide necessary capacity on this route towards Eastern and North Eastern sections.

Rail coach factory

737. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway coach building factories;

(b) the capacity of railways coach building factories;

(c) whether it is fact that railway coach factories have poor and low standard design talent; and

(d) the steps proposed to out-source design of coaches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Presently, there are two rail coach building factories under the Ministry of Railways, namely Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai, Tamil Nadu; and Rail Coach Factory(RCF), Kapurthala, Punjab. Other than these, M/s. BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited) Bangalore and M/s. Jessops, Kolkata, also manufacture railway coaches.